Earnings through export of petroleum products

3332. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public and private sector oil companies have increased export of petroleum products to reap benefits of increased prices in the world market;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for recent increase in the prices of petrol and diesel in India; and

(c) what is the amount of additional export earnings that are likely to accrue on the increased rate of petrol and diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) A comparison of exports of petroleum products for the year 2002-03 with the year 2001-02 is given below:

2002-03 (Provisional)		2001-02	
Qty (TMT)*	Value (Rs. Crore)	Qty. (TMT)	Value (Rs. Crore)
10,232	13,678	10,085	8,285

* (thousand metric tonnes)

With dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 1st April, 2002, the prices of petrol and diesel have been decontrolled. The oil companies are now fixing the prices of these products after taking into account the international oil prices. Thus, the fluctuations in the international oil prices are likely to get reflected in the domestic consumer prices of petrol and diesel. Taking into account the recent softening of international oil prices, the oil companies have reduced the retail selling prices of petrol and diesel in the country effective 16th April, 2003.

Errant petrol pumps in Maharashtra

3333. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps which have been found selling adulterated petroleum products on primary inspection in Maharashtra and specially in Mumbai during the last three years; and

(b) the list of the errant dealers and the actions taken against them?